

## 3rd COSCOM prepares to redeploy

### Turns over Logistical Support Area Anaconda to 13th COSCOM

By David Ruderman  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Wiesbaden-headquartered 3rd Corps Support Command is heading home.

COSCOM units worked through late January with their counterparts in the 13th Corps Support Command, based at Fort Hood, Texas, to hand off responsibility for Logistical Support Area Anaconda while preparing their equipment and Soldiers to redeploy from Iraq. Official transfer of authority took place Feb. 1.

"They're excited. That's another mission. We've got to get out of Iraq down to our redeployment assembly areas," said Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, 3rd COSCOM commander. The emphasis will be on methodical process and safety.

"We don't have any extra Soldiers," said Boles.

COSCOM Soldiers will leave behind the major supply and logistics hub of American forces in central Iraq. The LSA, outside the town of Balad, just south of the Tigris River about 55 miles north of Baghdad, is also a major air base, having served as an Iraqi air force training center before the war.

### Strategic hub

"It's the theater strategic hub," said Boles. "It's where strategic aircraft come in, and it's a real asset for us. It's a former military training base, and we've been able to convert it to our ends. As long as we are here we're going to need it for the assets we have here."

"It's hard to absorb the fact that we're getting ready to leave," said Sgt. Maj. Daniel Torres, G-1 sergeant major for 3rd COSCOM, describing the changes the base has undergone since the command's forces took it over in April and May. "It changed pretty quickly. Some things changed so fast you don't remember what it was like before anymore."

But most 3rd COSCOM Soldiers will likely never forget.

The sprawling base is dotted with eucalyptus trees. In the wet winter season the earth turns to a cloying mud that they drag everywhere with their boots. Streetlights lean in a dozen directions and cast no light. Soldiers carry flashlights at night to guide themselves through the darkness. A sudden rain burst can turn open spaces into large, shallow lakes. The wind blows relentlessly and at night, when the clouds recede, hundreds of stars crowd the sky where Sumerian and Akkadian priests charted the heavens over 4,000 years ago.

The airfield and its facilities, only lightly damaged by American air attacks during the war, had been looted and trashed by retreating Iraqi forces and nearby residents, when COSCOM Soldiers arrived. Small piles of blue Iraqi air force uniforms were to be found here and there. Soldiers spent weeks supervising teams of day laborers to remove the wreckage and restore buildings.

The security situation was touchy when they first moved in, Soldiers said. There were not enough Soldiers to patrol the inadequately secured perimeter. Units manned every second guard tower.

"We had no fence," said Spc. Craig Stephenson of 19th Support Center, a 21-year-old from Miami, Fla. "Plenty of local nationals were still out here roaming around. It was an experience — mortar attacks in the middle of the night when you're sleeping."

"You just have to get used to the mortars and the guard duty. I'm a tower specialist," said Pvt. 1 Irvin Jones, 20, from Texas, also of 19th Support Center.

The LSA is surrounded by a perimeter road and fence punctuated by guards towers manned around the clock. The vegetable and sunflower fields of farmers run in places directly up to the wire. "They're just shepherds and stuff. They always ask for Pepsi," said Jones.

"They did a lot of force protection missions," said Torres. "We had a lot of Soldiers working out of their MOS [Military Occupational Specialty]." The security situation has improved considerably since the summer as thousands of Soldiers poured into the base, said Torres.

"In the Central Region we have 4,000 Soldiers. Here we have 16,000 plus, and 45 percent of them are Reserve or National Guard," said Boles, noting that the much



Photo by David Ruderman

Soldiers wash up outside one of three dining facilities on LSA Anaconda.

discussed "integration of the total force" became a functioning reality at LSA Anaconda. "There were a lot of doubters. A lot of people said it couldn't be done," he said.

"The Air Force has come in here and been our partners. When their general officers come in it's been, 'How do we help you?' They've flown in 7,000 plus pallets, and that's important to me because every three pallets is a truck I'm not putting on the road. It means

more Soldiers who don't have to bump their butts on the road." The joint effort has improved supply deliveries and reduced the risk from attacks on the roads.

As 3rd COSCOM departs, oncoming forces can look forward to a relatively comfortable living and working environment. Films are shown on large screen televisions. MWR is building a commercial grade movie theater. An outdoor theater has been completed, but has not opened because of security concerns.

An indoor swimming pool, closed for a decade under Saddam Hussein, was reopened last summer after a massive renovation. Since the advent of winter it has closed while contractors install a heating system to make it a year-round facility.

The lack of readily available sporting goods put a dent in some Soldiers' athletic routines, but whiffle ball became a popular activity over the summer months. Soldiers formed leagues and constructed a small replica of Wrigley Field on which to play.

Prefabricated living trailers are being dropped on sections of the post to replace the tent cities where Soldiers have been living. Three prefabricated dining facilities, run by Kellogg, Brown and Root contract employees wearing white shirts, black bow ties and baseball caps, feed the troops.

The airfield has its own functioning gravel, cement and asphalt manufacturing facilities. Support Soldiers daily purify 1.5 million gallons of water drawn from a nearby canal that joins the Tigris River. It is stored in enormous bladders and is the supply source for bases throughout the region.

Petroleum products are brought in by tanker truck and stored for use. Recently a convoy of 40 engineer vehicles accompanied by armored HMWVs and gun trucks passed through and lined up to refuel at one of the "retail" fuel points. Half a dozen Filipino contractors wearing yellow jumpsuits started



Photo by Dennis Johnson

An Iraqi laborer pushes a wheelbarrow across a muddy field. Construction continues to expand logistical facilities and improve Soldiers' living conditions on LSA Anaconda.



# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by David Ruderman

Soldiers line up before being escorted to a waiting C-17 transport plane on the airfield. LSA Anaconda is the major transportation hub in central Iraq.

pumping up the vehicles.

"They [the convoys] keep coming and coming in," said Cordy Acosta, a KBR contractor from Texas. "We pump a lot of fuel right here on this line. I'd say 30-40,000 gallons a day."

"Anything that comes in — food, gas, fuel, ammo — we're in charge of it. It has to go through us first. We monitor everything — a lot of convoys coming from different sites, bringing water, fuel, rations, you name it," said Stephenson.

"No commander anywhere in Iraq has had to call up Gen. Sanchez [Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, Combined Joint Task Force 7 commander] to say I can't do my job because I can't get what I need," said Boles.

"One of the challenges we always face is not to fight the last war. We have to leverage the lessons we have learned. In Desert Shield and Desert Storm the challenge was getting stocks into theater. We've mastered that.

The challenge now is the last 1,000 or 500 kilometers, getting them to the Soldier in the foxhole," he said.

Advanced radio frequency identification systems that track supplies continuously have proved successful and will be more widely integrated into supply operations. "We have to leverage this new technology," said Boles.

## Legacy is safe

"The legacy is in the safest place it could be — in the hands of Soldiers. I've seen them in the dirt and the dark every day doing their missions. This is the generation that people said wasn't capable of doing this kind of job, but they would make their fathers proud. These kids have been the blue collar work force of this task force. They're the ones who roll up their sleeves and get it done," he said.

Selfless service and sacrifice remain at the

heart of Soldiers' commitment to the mission, said Boles, noting that 181 of his Soldiers have been awarded the Purple Heart.

"I think the team spirit is alive and well, and I am humbled by it. I'd be remiss if I didn't make a special point to thank our rear detachment Soldiers. It's their war too. And I want to thank the folks back home who have reached out repeatedly to our Soldiers with phone calls, letters and support. These are important symbols that connect Soldiers to the home that they are here to defend. They are significant gestures."

"We had a sergeant from Wiesbaden who sent everybody a package," said Torres, the G-1 sergeant major. "It became a joke about how we had a secret admirer. I never met her. She came in after we deployed, but she got a roster and started from the top. She made it her daily routine to send everybody a package. It was coffee and tea packages, and that's when we really needed it. It was really

amazing generosity."

Soldiers will also have to face readjustment to life in Germany once they get home. It will take time to decompress and come back to a steady state. "Be patient with us when we get back," said Boles. "Hang with us. This is part of the war on terror, and it's not over. We see it everyday. We still need your thoughts and prayers."

"When you're away from your family it's very, very hard," said Torres. "It takes a toll on the families. Compared to the mom or dad who stayed home, we had it easier than they did. Here you concentrate on what you have to do, but they have to take care of the kids and do everything else they need to do."

"One mission's done and another starts again," said Boles. "Redeployment and reintegration are basic Soldier-sergeant operations. The ASG [104th Area Support Group] and the base support battalions have stepped up for us, and we appreciate that."



Photo by Dennis Johnson

A memorial to Soldiers slain in Operation Iraqi Freedom stands outside the entrance of the PX on LSA Anaconda. The flags and flowers stand on a concrete barricade where Soldiers have written the names of their fallen comrades.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

A convoy stops to refuel at LSA Anaconda. The sprawling logistics base is the main supply point in central Iraq.



## Creative minds come together at art center



Photo by Jolly Sienda

Marcia Schmidt, head of the Framing Department at Römer Art Studio, displays a painting that was framed at the center. Römer offers a complete framing studio that produces customized mats and frames for just about any picture size.

**By Jolly Sienda**  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Everybody has a creative side – they just may not realize it. At Römer Art Studio located on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, budding artists can develop their talents under the ever helpful hand of Emily Roguski, arts and crafts director.

Having molded the Römer Arts Studio into an inviting art gallery and workshop, Roguski provides innovative and creative classes for adults and children. Her four years with the center has certainly paid off as the studio was named the top art center throughout the Army for 2003.

Marcia Schmidt who specializes in framing and stained glass is excited about the variety of classes Römer has to offer.

“From February to March we are holding special classes for kids ages 8-13 years of age on watercolor painting, temper painting, pastels and other projects,” said Schmidt. Classes are reasonably priced and kept small so that individual time

and instruction can be given, she said.

“Hobby craft classes sell out fast. The classes are only one or two day classes, usually on the weekends, and cost only \$25 for each class,” said Schmidt. Hobby craft classes include wreath making, stenciling, mosaic work and Easter egg painting.

Living in Germany also lends a folk art to some of the classes such as Tole painting which incorporates flowers, plant life and village scenes.

“When you take a class from us, we supply you with everything you will need in terms of supplies,” she said.

Calligraphy classes are also popular at Römer. “There are lots of baby showers and unit functions and parties that people can do their own invitations. We try to have calligraphy classes at least twice a year,” she said.

For individuals interested in pottery, Römer Art Studio has pottery classes that allow you to throw clay on a potter's wheel or hand build projects without the wheel. The studio is equipped with several kilns, glazes and clay. “We do not offer ceramics,” said Schmidt. “Our pottery shop is geared toward someone who wants to learn to make his

or her own pottery – it can be a bowl, plate, figure or anything your imagination can think of.”

Whatever the interest may be, Römer Arts Studio can tailor classes for individuals or groups as

needed. If you have a group of four or more people, the staff will be happy to accommodate a special class. You can call the center in advance at mil 337-5722 or civ (0611) 705-5722.

The Römer Arts Studio is open Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**“When you take a class from us, we supply you with everything you will need in terms of supplies.” — Marcia Schmidt, Römer Arts Studio**

### Commemoration in Iraq

## Soldiers pay tribute to King's dream

**By David Ruderman**  
104th Area Support Group Public  
Affairs Office

Over 200 Soldiers and airmen gathered in a Logistics Support Area Anaconda dining facility Jan. 19 to commemorate what would have been the 75th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Why? Why would an army in the midst of combat operations, sending its Soldiers into dark, dusty and dangerous places, take the time out of its schedule to honor the legacy of Dr. King,” asked Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, 3rd Corps Support Command commander in his introductory remarks.

Reminding his audience that

they serve in the ninth largest army in the world — right after Pakistan — he asked, “How does the ninth largest army in the world get to be the best? I would say it is a matter of values.” No one who enters the U.S. Army is asked how he or she voted in the last election or what church he or she attended the last time he or she went, said Boles. “We say to them, here are our values: Will you serve?”

King's role in making America live up to her values cannot be overestimated, he said. “Fifty years ago our nation was fraying. There was violence in the streets. Dr. King

reminded the nation of our values. ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalien-

**“How does the ninth largest army in the world get to be the best? I would say it is a matter of values.” — Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, 3rd Corps Support Command**

able rights.’ That's why we're the greatest army in the world – because of our values.”

A trio of Soldiers sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” and selected passages of King's “I Have a Dream” speech were recited. Col. Joseph C. Hightower, 13th Corps Support Command chief of staff, delivered the keynote address. He called for a level playing field of opportunity for all Americans, and for each individual to do what he or she can in his or her personal sphere of influence to free society from the remnants of its racist legacy.

“America today is an experiment in democracy, an experiment in inclusion, such as the world has never seen. It has meant more freedom for more people with fewer barriers,” said Hightower. King's lifework and self-sacrifice advanced the American cause of liberty, and it is for his contribution to the evolution of American society that we should

be thankful and dedicate our efforts, he said.

“It wasn't his dream; it was our dream; it was a noble dream; it was an American dream,” said

Hightower. “His dream had its foundation in our Constitution. It is the fulfillment of the dream of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. He was willing to sacrifice his life to free others. You out there today are involved in a great effort to bring these opportunities to a people who have never experienced them before.”

“I just did it because it's fine,” said Spc. Kerrie Hailey of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Corps Support Command, one of the three singers on the program. What did King's legacy mean to her? “He did it just for me so I can get along in this world and stand up for my children.”

“Regardless of where we are we are still recognizing different ethnic heritages,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelene Bigman of 19th Support Center. “Everybody is important.”

The ceremony concluded with everyone present singing the civil rights movement anthem, “We Shall Overcome.”

### Reintegration news

#### COSCOM family reunion training

Team 221st Army Community Service and 3rd Corps Support Command host reunion training for all 3rd COSCOM families Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center. Family members wishing to attend must contact their Family Readiness Group leader. For details visit [www.3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil](http://www.3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil).

#### Reunion for children classes

Wiesbaden's Social Work Services offers workshops for children age 7 and up. Reunion workshops for children age 7-12 will be held Feb. 4 and March 10; for teens age 13-17 Feb. 18 and March 17. All workshops are held at the Army Community Service cafeteria in Room 22 from 3-4:30 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

#### Parents Night Out

Child and Youth Services offers a special Parents Night Out for all reunited families Feb. 28 from 7-11 p.m. All children must be enrolled through Central Enrollment. Call mil 338-7610 or civ (0611) 380-7610.

# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## Community news notes

### Job Fair

Team 221st Army Community Service hosts a Job Fair Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ACS cafeteria in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### PWOC luncheon

The Protestant Women of the Chapel host guest speaker K.C. Bertling Feb. 5 from 9-11:30 a.m. An Italian potluck luncheon will follow. Child care will be available for participants. Call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570 for more information.

### AFTB for youth

The 221st Army Family Team Building program offers a special employment class for high school students Feb. 12 at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing. Learn how to write a resume, interviewing skills and other employment essentials. Space is limited to 15 students. For more information and to register for this free workshop call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### German post

The German Post Office at Wiesbaden Army Airfield is open Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Spouses welcome at inprocessing

Spouses of soldiers are encouraged to attend inprocessing with their sponsor at the Welcome Center. Inprocessing is an important tool in integrating new soldiers and families into the Wiesbaden community. Classes include safety, Army Community Service and Army Family Team Building, education, force protection, beginning German and more. For more information call mil 337-5419 or civ (0611) 705-5419.

### Housekeeping service available

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service now offers housekeeping services for Hainerberg, Crestview, Aukamm, Dexheim, Mainz-Kastel, Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Finthen housing areas. People living off post may also be eligible for this service. Call civ (0171) 751 2762 or (06732) 933 326 or email [squeakyclean@t-online.de](mailto:squeakyclean@t-online.de).

### Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers meet their breastfeeding goals through mother-to-

mother support and information. The Rhein Main area LLL meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information. Mothers with their nursing babies and mothers-to-be are always welcome.

### BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month in Room 210 at the Welcome Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

### Veteran briefings

The Army Career and Alumni Program offers information on a wide variety of veteran's benefits available to soldiers and their family members. Upcoming briefings are scheduled in Wiesbaden March 3, April 6, May 19, June 3, 24, July 21, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9. Call the ACAP office at mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709 to sign up.

### Vehicle donations

The 221st Base Support Battalion vehicle storage lot can not accept any more donations because of lack of storage space. Vehicles can be donated by calling Hollman's Auto at civ (06134) 3381 or the Hanau donation lot at mil 322-1610.

### Playhouse presentation

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "The Lilies of the Field," a heart-warming comedy of faith and dreams based on the classic Sidney Poitier film. Performances will be held Feb. 19-21, 26-28 and March 4-6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield United Service Organization offices or by calling mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

### Family room available

The Tony Bass Fitness Center now offers a family fitness room fully equipped with treadmills, elliptical trainers and stationary bikes as well as a television, DVD player, tables, chairs and mats for the kids. Bring your own movies and fun activities for children while you do your workout. Movie donations are also welcome.

### School fundraiser

Wiesbaden American Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association hosts a bingo fundraiser Feb. 27. Cards go on sale at 5 p.m.; games begin at 6 p.m. For more information call civ (0611) 267 8676.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

### Checked the mail lately?

Although the holiday mail rush is officially over, packages continue to pile up at the Wiesbaden Community Mail Room. Mail room officials ask customers to check their mail daily to free up space for incoming mail.

### School book fair

Wiesbaden American Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association hosts a school book fair Feb. 23-26 in the media center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents will also have an opportunity to order books Feb. 27 during parent-teacher conferences. Call civ (0611) 267 8676.

### PTSA meeting

The Wiesbaden Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association meets in the school's media center March 9 at 5 p.m.

### Auditions

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse hosts auditions for "The Elephant Man" Feb. 10-11 at 7 p.m. Seven adult males, two adult females and a cello player are needed for this performance. Volunteers are always needed to work on lighting, costumes and props. Anyone interested can call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

### Bridge players needed

Duplicate Bridge players are invited to compete with the American Contract Bridge League every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Bridge club house located at Marktplatz 13. The club is located across the street from the Marktplatz church. For more information call mil 337-5190 or civ (0611) 307 834.

### Stress management

Wiesbaden's Social Work Services hosts stress management workshops at Army Community Services, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing, April 14 and 28 from 3-4:30 in Room 22. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

### Couples communication

Learn skills for effective talking, listening, conflict resolution and anger management to help you and your partner build a more satisfying relationship. Couples Communication workshops will be held at Army Community Service, Building 7790, Room 23, in Hainerberg Housing.

For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

### Quarter bouncing tourney

In conjunction with Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Quarter Bouncer competition, the Victory Point Bar at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center hosts quarter bouncing tournaments every Thursday, beginning Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. A team selected by finalists from all participating facilities will then be chosen to represent MWR in Las Vegas in April. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

### AFTB training

Learn how to better manage your time, deal with stress, understand how a Family Readiness Group works and deals with people effectively through Army Family Team Building's Personal Management Class. The class will be held Feb. 9-10 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 7790, in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### Welcome briefing

Newcomers to Wiesbaden are encouraged to attend Army Family Team Building's Welcome to Wiesbaden classes held the first and third Monday of the month at the Newcomers Information Center in Room 240 at the American Arms Hotel. Call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754 for more information and to register.

### Dance show

Dexheim Elementary School hosts the Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theater Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. The group performs with traditional African drum and dance skits to promote cultural understanding of African countries. The performance is free and open to all ID card holders.



## Military Police hone Soldiering skills

**By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Military Police are deployed all over the world, but those from the 793rd Military Police Battalion not on the front lines supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom came to Baumholder in December for a week to hone their war-fighting skills.

"A lot of our unit is currently in Iraq, but what remains back here is going through a train up period in preparation for any possible deployment over the next six months," said Maj. Duane Miller, 793rd Military Police Battalion S-3.

"This is really one of three ranges that we're going to be going to in the next four to five months," said Miller.

About 500 Military Police participated in this range density exercise that had soldiers

firing an array of weapons including Mark 19s, 249s and M-203s for qualification. It was their first time qualifying at the "home of champions" and they were not disappointed.

"The facilities here are great. They meet the requirement for a battalion-range density and for a battalion-size exercise. The billeting is also really great. It accommodated everybody that we had out here," said Sgt. Maj. Tuli Malauulu, 793rd Military Police Battalion S-3 sergeant major.

"The availability of the facility was also a super asset. The structure, the support element out here was really great. It helped us out a lot," said Malauulu.

"The other thing... which makes it a great training event is the firearms training simulator that's located here in Baumholder. That thing is absolutely fantastic," he said.

"It gives the soldiers an opportunity to

get familiar with the weapon prior to getting out on the range," said Miller.

In addition to eliminating large quantities of training ammunition, "This thing provides more opportunity behind a weapon so that when a soldier goes out on the battlefield or whatever mission he's asked of, he's more comfortable with the weapon and more skilled in using his weapon," said Miller.

"This is a great training facility and a great opportunity for all of the soldiers in the battalion, or in the brigade for that matter, to come out here and qualify and use the facility to accommodate the training that we need as Military Police to sustain our proficiency in everything that we do," he said.

Convenience was a driving factor that influenced the law enforcers to train at Baumholder.

"We're trying to make it convenient for

most of the unit. We usually train in Graefenwöhr or wherever the closest location is. Right now we're the rear detachment for 18th and 3rd Brigade. Since the 92nd and 127th MP companies fall under us and are located in this vicinity, it was more convenient to conduct our range density here," said Malauulu.

"We've had an opportunity to get all the soldiers together, even while they continue to do law enforcement throughout all of central Europe, to fire weapons and just do some great training," said Miller.

Like most first-time visitors to Baumholder, Miller could not resist commenting on Baumholder's top-notch weather conditions. "The weather's been absolutely wonderful out here — no cloudiness. I hear that's a regular occurrence here on Baumholder," he said.

## EFMP helps meet exceptional needs

**By Jeff Burkhard**  
Exceptional Family Member Program manager

The Exceptional Family Member Program is a multi-agency Department of Defense program mandated by Army policy to ensure the medical and educational needs of family members are cared for appropriately.

The Army Community Service EFMP, located in Building 8746, is here to help soldiers and their family members understand the program, their rights and responsibilities, and the role EFMP plays in the Soldier's career and family's well-being.

One frequent question we hear at ACS is "Why do I have

to do this EFMP paperwork again? I did all that paperwork before coming to Germany."

This is a fair question and one that is easily explained. The Army Regulation which covers the EFMP program is AR 608-75. One major section of the regulation outlines the process whereby a Soldier and family receive orders to another duty assignment.

If the Soldier wishes to bring his or her family members overseas or from Baumholder to another overseas site the family must be screened for EFMP enrollment. The reason for this screening is to benefit the family members and the Soldier to ensure there are appropriate medical and educational

services for the family members before an overseas assignment is made.

EFMP helps the Soldier and family during their move to Baumholder, while they are here serving their tour and also while they start to outprocess from Baumholder. Call the ACS EFMP manager at mil 485-8188, Monday through Friday, if you have any questions or concerns.

Information is also available online at [www.EFMconnections.com](http://www.EFMconnections.com). The site offers information that explains the EFMP program success stories and a detailed line-by-line description of the EFMP screening and enrollment process.

## 2nd BCT recruits Baghdad police force

**Story and photo by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert**  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The auditorium at the Iraqi Forum in central Baghdad was bustling Jan. 10 with applicants hoping to join the ranks of the Iraqi Police Service.

But before they can attend the police academy, candidates must go through a prescreening process.

This is where 1st Armored Division came in: soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, ran the Iraqi police recruit prescreening.

This is the second time the soldiers with the 2nd BCT conducted the prescreening.

This time they've tweaked the process through lessons learned and hope for an even higher number of recruits, said battalion leaders responsible for the program.

Their first go-round churned out a remarkable number of police recruits said Maj. Linda H. Sharf, 2nd BCT civil-military affairs officer. Their first attempt at sifting through recruits and finding the most prom-



2nd Lt. Derek Tureson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th battalion, 27th Field Artillery, gathers the next group of Iraqi applicants for the screening process at the Iraqi Forum in central Baghdad.

ising candidates produced 86 percent acceptability—one of the highest success rates in the division.

This time the Soldiers are shooting for an even higher success rate, she said.

The battalion credits their suc-

cess with a tight pre-screening process — involving multiple stations of medical evaluations and job-related questionnaires.

The battalion also required the candidates to bring supporting documents with them to the screen-

ing. They must also bring their paperwork to the police academy for the second phase of the screening process.

To make this second recruiting session more successful than the first, the 2nd BCT decided to draw

this round of recruits based upon recommendations from their neighborhood advisory councils, Sharf said.

By drawing from a narrow selection of applicants chosen by the neighborhood councils, the unit hopes to reduce potential corruption within the police force.

"By allowing the neighborhood advisory councils to hand pick these recruits, we think we'll have good quality recruits," 1st Lt. Derek L. Tureson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery.

Neighborhood leader involvement should also bolster the councils' status within their communities and help with the task of choosing the recruits, he said.

"This helps the neighborhood advisory councils establish credibility," said Tureson.

"By their choosing honest recruits, the people will have confidence in the neighborhood advisory councils. It also builds the people's confidence with the police and the government," said Tureson.

‘FISHing’ for Army Family Action Plan issues



Delegates at last year’s Army Family Action Plan Conference listen as a group facilitator explains the purpose of the conference, the procedures for issue generation and what happens with the issues after the conference.

Army Community Service officials are kicking around a new acronym to explain what the Army Family Action Plan is all about. FISH, Fresh Ideas Start Here, clearly tells the AFAP story, officials said.

Every year the AFAP staff organizes a conference that gives community members the opportunity to share quality of life issues with the installation and Army leadership. The families of Baumholder will have their chance to let their voices be heard at the annual AFAP Conference at the Rheinlander Convention Center Feb. 19 and 20. The conference begins at 8 a.m. and will run until 2:30 p.m. on both days.

Have you submitted your issue yet? An issue can be anything concerning the quality of life here in Baumholder or within the Army community as a whole. Delegates are being selected to reflect the various community demographics. The delegates will be assigned to work groups that will discuss the issues solicited from the community with the goal of obtaining resolutions. Everyone will have a voice, so be sure to submit your issue today.

There are several ways to express your concerns for discussion at the conference. One way is to email the concern/issue and how you would fix it to the AFAP coordinator at [Julie.Gowel@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:Julie.Gowel@104asg.mwr.army.mil).

Also keep an eye out for the issue work sheets and drop boxes placed all around post for your convenience. Issues must be received by Feb. 11.

Spouses urged to get ready for redeployment

Commentary by  
Julie Gowel  
Army Community Service  
Marketing

The new year is underway and the buzzword on post is redeployment. Soldiers will soon be returning from Iraq, and it is time for everyone in Baumholder to gear up for their homecoming.

This doesn’t just mean cleaning up the house and getting things in order, it also means now is the time to kick off the reunion/reintegration process.

Army Community Service has been conducting reunion/reintegration training for Soldiers and their spouses since June 2003. Originally the program was targeted to spouses of deployed Soldiers, but in October the focus shifted to the service members as they were coming back to Baumholder to either depart to a new duty station or separate from the Army. Members of the community have been hearing a great deal about the Baumholder Hero Day program over the last few months, but as of Feb. 1 the center of attention will shift back to the spouses and getting them ready for the reunion of their families.

The goal of the reunion/reintegration training is to reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach family members how to recognize conflicts before they happen. All Soldiers are required to attend this training, but it is voluntary for spouses. ACS officials said they believe having both partners in the marriage attend the training makes the adjustment back

to daily life much easier on the family unit as a whole.

The reunion/reintegration training can and should be taken without the service member before he or she redeploy to Baumholder.

Since trainees will learn how to recognize signals and learn about potential behavior that may indicate a need for help, it is better to have the knowledge before the Soldier’s return. A discussion group deals with resolving family conflicts. This might include how to deal with a child’s resentment to introducing the Soldier back into the family dynamic as a parent.

Other hot topics include improving a couple’s communication skills and learning how to cope with handling the finances jointly again. These are issues that if thought about before redeployment can save families a lot of tension and frustration.

Any spouse can attend the training held every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. by calling ACS and reserving a space. Child care is available provided the children are pre-registered with Community Youth Services and reservations are made with ACS in advance. Family Readiness Groups are urged to contact ACS to schedule training as a group. ACS will even come to you. Ask your FRG leader to contact ACS and schedule your next meeting with ACS.

Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 now to reserve your space or learn more about conducting the reunion/reintegration training at your next FRG meeting.

✂

Army Family Action Plan

Feb. 19, 20

Rheinlander Convention Center

Issue Worksheet

Issue/concern: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Possible solution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return this worksheet to Army community Service or drop it off in any of the drop boxes located throughout the community. For more information call ACS at mil 485-7196 or civ (06783) 6-7196.

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# 222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrück, Strassburg

## Suicide hotline

If challenges in your life are getting to be more than you can handle, you are not alone. Help is available by calling the suicide hotline. You can speak to a community chaplain directly by phone. There is no middle person, and everything is kept confidential.

The suicide hotline numbers are mil 1988 (no prefix) or civ (06783) 999-2977

## Sports physicals

Sports physicals will be conducted Feb. 12 and 26 from 3-6 p.m. at the Baumholder Health Clinic for children who will be playing in organized athletics this year. No appointment is necessary. Those interested should report to the first floor of the health clinic.

For more information call mil 485-7543.

## Shop for bargains

The 2004 Baumholder Community Spouses Club Spring Bazaar will be held Feb. 27-29 at the Hall of Champions. The doors will open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 29. Admission is free to all U.S. identification card holders and their guests. For more information call civ (06783) 188844.

## Officer candidates

The 222nd Base Support Battalion will conduct an Officer Candidate School selection board March 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Training Support Division small classroom, Building 8475.

The board is open to any qualified enlisted soldier who is interested in becoming a commissioned officer. Those interested must submit their completed packets to the 222nd BSB Adjutant's Office by March 11. For more information call mil 485-6788.

## TIPOSH on line

Annual refresher Training In the Prevention Of Sexual Harassment is now available online and must be completed by March 31. This training is only for persons who have already taken the basic TIPOSH here in Baumholder. This is mandatory yearly training. New personnel or those employees/supervisors who have not taken TIPOSH must take the Basic TIPOSH in a classroom setting.

The next Basic TIPOSH will be held Feb. 10 at the Training Support Division large classroom at 9 a.m. for supervisors and at 1 p.m. for nonsupervisors.

All U.S. employees (supervisory and non-supervisory), Soldiers who supervise U.S. civilian employees and local nationals who supervise U.S. civilian employees must take this training every year.

## Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

## Thanks for your support

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, U.S. Army Europe deputy commander, talks with Family Readiness Group leaders at Army Community Service during a visit to Baumholder Jan. 22. Ward fielded questions from the FRG leaders and thanked them for their support of Soldiers and the current deployment. The general's wife, Joyce (seated second from left), accompanied the general on the tour that included a tour of the installation for the pair to view completed and ongoing facility renovations.

People can access the automated Refresher TIPOSH program in two ways. To access this program go to the 222nd BSB homepage, [www.baumholder.army.mil](http://www.baumholder.army.mil), and either click on the EEO link on the top right or click on the enter button on the top center of the page, click on the "Equal Employment Opportunity" link and then click on "Training In the Prevention Of Sexual Harassment (TIPOSH) refresher training is now available on line" link. Both of these options will take you to a page of instructions. The first option will only be available temporarily but the second will continue to be available.

Once completed, the program will automatically notify the 222nd BSB EEO office with your name and score. Do not send a copy of your certificate to the EEO office. For more information call mil 485-7118/7450.

## Think it over

Girl Scout Thinking Day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 28 at the Girl Scout Hut. Girl Scout Thinking Day is when each troop learns about a new country and represents them through dance, a skit, food or the like. Everyone is invited

to come out and see "thoughts in action."

## Poland Express

Get your friends together and join Outdoor Recreation Feb. 6 for an express trip to Poland for Polish pottery shopping. The cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Seats are limited so call mil 485-7182 today to reserve your space.

## Fresh Ideas Start Here

Let your voice be heard at the Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 19-20 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Call mil 485-6985 for more information or to volunteer.

## Ready to reunite?

Army Community Service Spouses Reunion Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help. Training is every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Child care is available when reservations are made in advance with ACS.

ACS will even go to you. Talk to your Family Readiness Group leader about group training sessions or

call mil 485-8188 for more information.

## Bowling center

The bowling center is closed for renovation through March.

## A different drum

Celebrate Black History Month with a performance by BI-OKOTO, an African dance and music group, Feb. 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Rheinlander Convention Center. For more information call mil 485-8779.

## Need a job?

Check out the job fair Feb. 27 at the Rheinlander Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers can obtain information about jobs in the community and receive on the spot interviews.

## Go on a safari

Take an exotic trip with Outdoor Recreation to the Frankfurt Zoo Feb. 28. The cost for transportation and admission is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. For more information call mil 485-7182.

## Leap year pizza

Come get your fill of leap year pizza at Rudy's when they'll offer a two for one Pizza night special Feb.

28. Pizzas must be of equal or lesser value. For more information call mil 485-8602.

## Spring sports

Youth Services spring sports registration for baseball and softball is ongoing now through Feb. 27 for children ages 5-18. Volunteer coaches are needed. A skills assessment will be conducted March 6 and practice begins March 15. Call mil 485-7276 for more information.

## Hit the slopes

Hit the slopes with Outdoor Recreation ski trips throughout February.

Skiing and snowboarding trips to the Black Forest are scheduled for Feb. 7 and 24. The cost is \$35. A skiing and snowboarding trip to Austria is scheduled for Feb. 13-16. The cost is \$265. Call mil 485-7182 for more information.

## Need a break?

Have a quiet dinner or enjoy a movie with the help of Parents Night Out Feb. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Wetzel Infant-Kindergarten. The cost is \$10 per child and children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Space is limited so call mil 485-7003 today.

## Get stuffed

Get stuffed at the Rheinlander Sunday brunch. Two sittings are offered to meet your schedule from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$12.50 for adults and \$9 for children ages 10-15 and \$6 for ages 6-9. There's no cost for children age 5 and under. Make reservations by calling mil 485-7507.

## Nurture your creativity

The Arts and Crafts Center is offering numerous instructional classes:

Feb. 12: Quilting Class, "Valentines Wall Hangings," \$25.

Feb. 14: Valentines Day, "Children's Ceramic Party," \$5

Feb. 21: Kids Play Day, "Making Fasching Masks," \$5.

Call mil 485-6687 for more information or to register.

## Get greased

Get your hands dirty with instructional classes at the Auto Skills Center. Basic Auto Maintenance is offered Feb. 12 and 26 and Introduction to Brake Systems is offered Feb. 3 and 17. All classes begin at 2 p.m. and are free with bay rental. Call mil 485-6117 for details.

## SNAP needs help

Baumholder's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is looking for volunteers to help keep the community safe. For more information call mil 485-8669.



# Problem-solving day a hit at Smith

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

The faculty at Smith Elementary School has so many problems that they have given up and decided to let the students solve them all. Students dedicate an entire day at least once a quarter to solving problems the faculty has allowed to accumulate.

There is so much to do that each student visits at least four teachers throughout the day to see what he or she can do to help the faculty members with their dilemma.

It may appear that chaos rules supreme and the students have their work cut out for them, but in reality what the students are doing is learning how to solve problems systematically.

They call them problem-solving days and they were dreamed up by the Smith faculty.

"We had the first one in March last year and then we had another one in May, one in October and then this one in January. Our goal is to have it once per quarter. It was an idea that the staff came up with last year to really bring the community in as part of our school improvement," said Helen Balilo, Smith Elementary School vice principal.

This means that parents are also a key element of problem-solving days. "The last problem-solving day we had almost 200 parents who came. Even with the deployment



Maria Segura, Sure Start assistant, helps her daughter Maciel, a Sure Start student, work her way through a maze set up at the gym as part of the school's problem-solving day. It was a hands-on fun kind of day for the younger students while the older students concentrated on more academic-related problems.

Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

affecting 89 percent of the student body, parent participation was high," said Balilo.

The parents help teachers run the students through the numerous problems they must accomplish. One station where parent

participation is high is in the gym where all the kindergartners and younger students are involved in numerous physical activities.

"The students use a four-step problem-solving process across all curricular areas that includes activities to understand, plan, do and review," said Balilo. The process is known to students and faculty as UPDR or "Up Doctor."

"There are a number of activities

for the children throughout the day and all of the teachers are involved in the process, even the nurse," said Balilo.

The students work with at least four different teachers during the day—their homeroom teacher and then three other teachers. "The teaching teams have flexibility about how they want to divide the students up. For example, our fourth- and fifth-grade classes have four

groups going around. They took kids from each class to make a different class so that they're working with different children too. This gives them an opportunity to be with other students," said Balilo.

The day begins with a kick-off celebration. "That's when Bill Rose, Smith Elementary School principal, dresses up as the Up Doctor. He has this crazy yellow wig and his doctor's stethoscope and his lab coat and he does different things for the students," said Balilo. "We also have some girls who are the Up Doctor cheerleaders. They do cheers for the UPDR. It's a lot of fun, and the kids get really excited," said Balilo. "Today it was snowy so we all met in the gym and it worked out fine. Usually we have it outside. All the children gather at the black-top area and we make a giant square and then we have the people in the middle to get them excited. A lot of parents come out for that because they like the hype of that too. It's exciting, you know; it's fun. Another thing that we offered today is a family advocacy presentation to parents during the part of the day when the students are moving from class to class," said Balilo.

The parents learned about stress management, anger management and reunification. "We're planning to do more things like that with the other problem-solving days. For the next one we're going to focus on how to use the Up Doctor at home to help the kids with their homework and the rush of getting kids out of the house in the morning. [We want] to have the 'Up Doctor' help parents get their child ready for school," said Balilo.



Haley Hustead (left) and Prince Owusu are deep in thought as they tackle a problem proposed to the combined fourth- and fifth-grade class.



Michele Fischer, kindergarten teacher, helps Aaron Scott determine what sort of insulation is more effective against cold objects, wool or blubber (cotton or cooking oil) as Alexis Long looks on.